concession is worked out for the DAP manufactured through indigenous phosphoric acid & imported phosphoric acid.

(b) No DAP fertilizer industry in the country is closed. The production of DAP reported by the companies during the period April to July, 2004 is 17.28 lakh MT as against the production of 11.58 lakh MT in the same period of 2003.

(c) No DAP fertilizer industry has been declared sick.

Compensation to victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1806. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALSAND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered to pay Rs.1503 crore to the victims of 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of claimants for the compensation,

(d) whether the amount of the compensation has since been paid to the claimants;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay in distributing the compensation amount?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALSAND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) In its judgement dated 14th/15th February, 1989, the Supreme Court directed the Union Carbide to deposit US $ 470 millions as a settlement of all past, present and future claims. As a result of Supreme Court Order, Union Carbide Company deposited US $ 470 millions (420 million in US dollar and approximately Rs.69 crore in Indian rupees) in March, 1989. The process of giving compensation started in 1992. 10,29,515 cases were registered for compensation. All the cases have since been settled. Compensation has been awarded in 5,72,173 cases by the Welfare Commissioner who is a sitting judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. An amount of Rs. 1536.27 crores has been disbursed as compensation till 31.7.2004. After deciding ail the cases, except appeals and revision petitions, some amount remained unutilized. For this amount, the Supreme Court now, in its judgement

dated 19.7.2004, has directed the Welfare Commissioner to disburse the unspent amount to the persons whose claims have been settled, on pro-rata basis having due regard to the number of claims settled, unsettled and pending. According to information received from the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, the work of disbursement of compensation on pro-rata basis is likely to start from 1st October, 2004.

Revival of Hindustan Antibiotic Limited

1807. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive the Hindustan Antibiotic Limited Pimpri, India's first pencillin manufacturing unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a to (c) Recently, the Finance Minister, in the Budget Speech of 2004-05, has announced to provide financial support for the restructuring of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pimpri. Thereafter, the HAL, has submitted a revised Draft Rehabilitation Scheme which envisages infusion of additional funds from the Government for the revival of the Company. It will not be possible to give a time frame for the revival of the company as it depends on the sanctioning of Rehabilitation Scheme by the BIFR which is a time consuming process.

High retail prices of drgus and medicines

1808. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retail prices of drugs and medicines are being labeled at over 20 per cent of the cost of manufacture and packaging; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken or being taken to check and regulate the drug prices to protect the ailing and suffering humanity against such exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Prices of Scheduled drugs and medicines